

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-13 and 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stumpe, et al. (5,669,678), henceforth referred to as "Stumpe/678", in view of Schubert (6,030,055), henceforth referred to as "Schubert/055" and rejected Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stumpe/678 in view of Schubert/055, further in view of Campau et al. (5,941,608), henceforth referred to as "Campau/608".

Independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 were each amended (in the Amendment filed December 7, 2007) to recite, in pertinent part, "d) updating a value representing the voltage necessary to take a valve of the pressure control system from a de-energized state to a just-closed position based at least in part upon the value of the error calculated; and".

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy shown in conducting a telephone interview on June 30, 2008. During the interview, paragraph 34 of the application was discussed in the context of how normally open and normally closed solenoid-operated poppet valves operate, and how installed springs and any differential pressure existing across a valve affect the force needed to be exerted by a solenoid to move the valve from the normal position to a just-closed position. Further, the definition of closing boundary disclosed in paragraph 9 of the application was discussed. Further, the limitation d) added to each of the independent claims (as discussed above) was discussed in the context of Stumpe/678. Additionally, it was discussed that though the discussions were in terms of a voltage applied to a solenoid, that a control signal could be a current signal instead of a voltage signal, due to the proportionality of the two (as discussed in paragraph 66 of the application). *The recitation of "voltage" in the claims is intended to cover "current" as well.* No agreement on the ultimate allowability of the pending claims was reached, because, although the Examiner could not point to where at least the

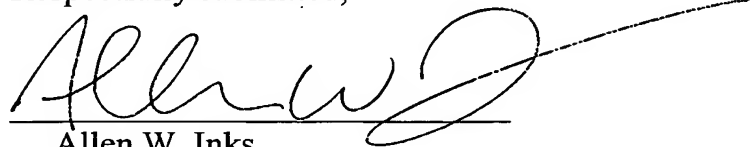
limitation d) added to each of the independent claims (as discussed above) was taught or suggested, the Examiner indicated that he needed further time to review the prior art in light of his new understanding of the claims.

Applicant asserts that none of the art of record shows or suggests a boundary value correction method including updating a value representing the voltage necessary to take a valve from a de-energized state to a just-closed position. Thus, it is believed that amended Claims 1, 8 and 15 are patentable over the art of record and Applicant requests that the Examiner's rejections of Claims 1, 8 and 15 be withdrawn.

Regarding Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-21, these claims are all dependent from Independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively and contain all of the limitations recited therein. Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-21 are patentable over the art of record and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of these claims.

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen W. Inks', written over a horizontal line.

Allen W. Inks
Reg. No. 37,358

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fifth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-5900